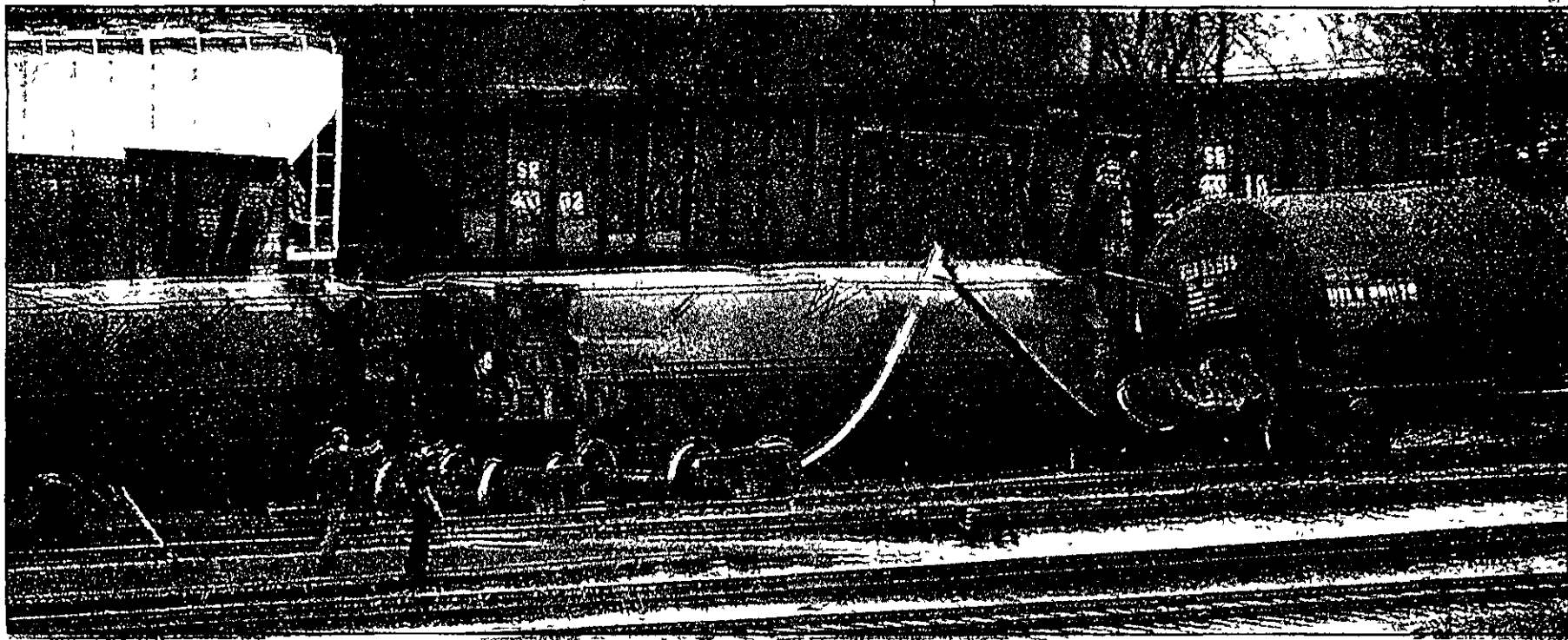


The Clarion-Ledger

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Michele Stapleton / The Clarion-Ledger

Officials assess the situation after 11 tank cars carrying the flammable vinyl chloride derailed Wednesday afternoon. The cars, belonging to The Kansas City Southern Railway Co., were traveling 6 to 7 seven mph on a north-south track adjacent to Mill Street near Hamilton Street when the accident occurred.

Downtown area evacuated

■ Derailed hazardous cargo will likely keep some businesses closed today.

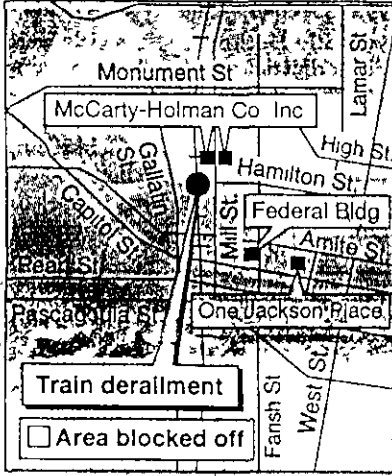
By Jay Hughes
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

A portion of downtown Jackson remained evacuated this morning while crews uprighted 11 train tankers with hazardous cargo that derailed Wednesday afternoon. Residents and businesses within a one-half mile radius of the derailment site near Mill and Hamilton streets was evacuated after the 3:30 p.m. incident. Officials said none of the vinyl chloride inside the tankers leaked.

"We have to prepare for the worst," said Jackson Fire Chief Joe Donovan. "My main concern is an explosion."

Vinyl chloride is an extremely flammable gas that may be poisonous if inhaled. Contact can cause burns to skin and eyes, and may cause cancer.

Hinds County Emergency Operations Center Director Larry J. Fish-



er estimated about 100 families were evacuated. The city opened a shelter at the Champion Center on Hattiesburg Street for displaced residents.

The accident left three of The Kansas City Southern Railway Co.'s hazardous material tankers lying on their side. Eight others jumped the tracks but remained upright. Rail traffic continued, using several tracks not affected by the crash.

E.W. Pace, trainmaster for Kansas City Southern's Eastern Division, said the cause of the derailment is under investigation.

"The cars were going probably six or seven miles per hour," Pace said. "If they were going any faster, it would have been worse."

Kara Kimbrough, spokeswoman for McCarty-Holman Co., said about 350 employees were evacuated from the company's administrative offices, which are located in a dairy warehouse complex at 453 N. Mill St. about 5 p.m.

"We can't ship produce, eggs or bread tonight as planned," Kimbrough said Wednesday. "A lot of our stores will not get their regular shipment tonight."

Kimbrough said if the evacuation order stands until late this morning, McCarty-Holman will find other sources to fill their shipments.

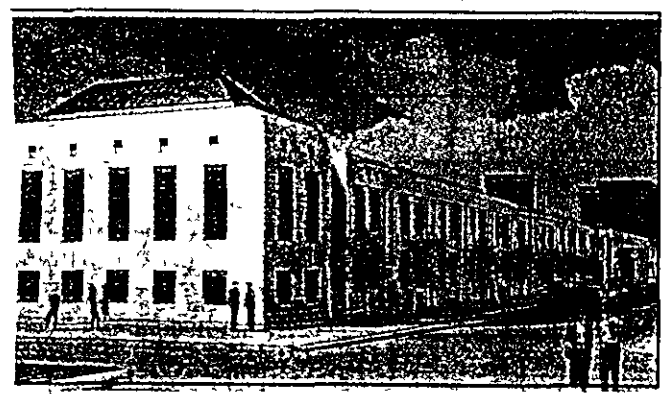
Fisher said the area will remain evacuated until the tankers are righted and moved out.

"This thing is probably going to extend into the day... and, if so, See DERAILMENT, 11A."



Greg Jensen / The Clarion-Ledger

Jackson Police Officer Michael Ivy helps Gilbert McAllister of Jackson evacuate his Hamilton Street apartment near the derailment site.



Division, from the corner of Pearl and Congress streets

nted with expansion

Publisher Duane K. McCallister said Ditto's com-

Senate passes \$10M relief package to help victims of ice storm, tornado

■ The money would help residents repair weather-related damage.

By Mac Gordon
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Senators on Wednesday approved a \$10 million relief package for ice-storm victims, and added to it two tornado-stricken south Mississippi counties.

"I'm in a heck of a box. Lincoln County looks like a war zone and I can't vote for this unless I get some help for my people," said Sen. W.V.

"We've got little old ladies who can't afford these repairs. Our school children are gonna freeze if we don't do this now."

— Sen. John White of Baldwin.

The offer of financial help was welcomed in the Delta, where many areas remain without water or electricity.

"I think it's a good idea to help

Sen. Ronnie Musgrove of Batesville argued that the reserve fund was established in 1992 to deal only with budget problems.

Another option was to take the \$10 million from a \$56 million contingency fund that has already passed the 1994 Legislature and is awaiting Fordice's signature. But senators feared it wouldn't be available in time.

"We've got little old ladies who can't afford these repairs. Our school children are gonna freeze if we don't do this now," said Sen.

ons were moving at a had hoped," he added tie to flexibility on both

ssed willingness to dis- ds, although only to ne- problems And Marcos the longterm political k cannot be decided at bal

as had covered about 25 he guerrillas of the Za- tion Army want nego- disarm ents reached Wednes-

day dealt with issues of health, housing, edu- cation and "respect and dignity" for indige- nous people in Mexico He did not give details

The Zapatistas seized San Cristobal and other towns in southernmost Chiapas state on Jan 1, then withdrew into the jungle The gov- ernment declared a cease-fire on Jan 12 after more than 100 people had died Peace talks began on Monday in a cathedral in this south- ern town

Earlier, Marcos asked for allies in seeking political change He said the rebels alone could not bring greater democracy to a country governed by one party since 1929

"We have neither the moral authority nor

the strength to tell the nation This is the Mexico that we want," Marcos said "There are others who do And we say to them Take us into account. That this will not be neces- sary again killing and dying just so they will listen "

He said fair elections are impossible when run by a government so closely identified with a single party — the Institutional Revolution- ary Party, or PRI

"The central point is democracy, justice and liberty," Marcos said, speaking to Mexi- can radio reporters

"What happens is that we can't negotiate that at the table in San Cristobal "

"They (cleanup crews) are going to take their time and be very safety-conscious about this."

— Larry J. Fisher, Hinds County EOC Director

Derailment

From 1A

we're talking the Federal Building and some of the banks and other businesses that will not be allowed to open," Fisher said "They (clean- up crews) are going to take their time and be very safety-conscious about this "

Crews with cranes known as "side booms" were expected on-site at about 1 a.m. this morning The crews were coming from Memphis and Meridian

It was not known late Wednesday how long it will take to clear the tracks and lift the evacuation order Fisher said people who work in the evacuated area should monitor local radio and television stations for in- formation about when it is safe to return

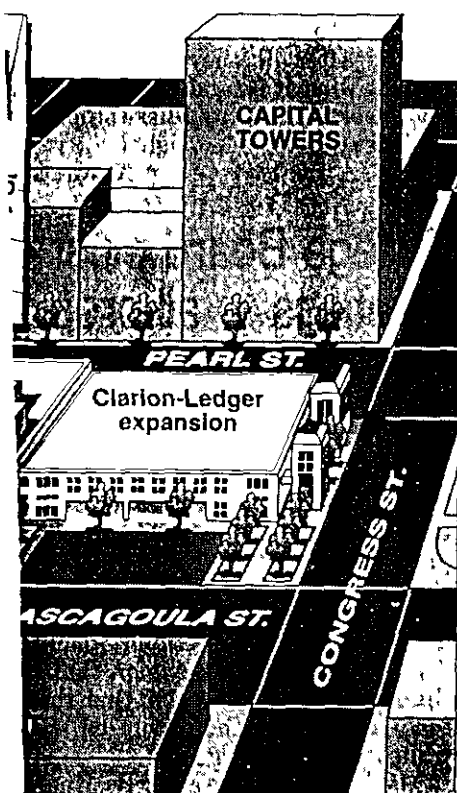
Donovan said his department wasn't immediately alerted to the accident He was told of the acci- dent while walking out of City Hall Wednesday afternoon, and called fire units to the scene, Donovan said.

"The railroad should have called us immediately," Donovan said. "I will find out why they didn't "

Herbert Ferguson, an Amtrack ticket clerk, said four or five passen- gers missed the train because of po- lice road blocks

One of those passengers was Monica Williams of St. Louis, who was returning home after visiting relatives Williams said Greyhound bus lines agreed to honor the Am- track ticket

"I just want to get home," Wil- liams said



Godfrey Jones/The Clarion-Ledger

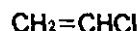
to develop downtown if it had moved away

"I think it would have been a very, very bad signal for the state's and the city's leading newspaper to abandon downtown," Foster said

Although city officials and the newspaper are sometimes at odds, Foster said he's glad to see *The Clarion-Ledger*, with 450 employ- ees, expand across from City Hall

"We're talking about jobs staying in Jackson *The Clarion-Ledger* has made a commitment in that regard, and so I am very thankful for that," Foster said "We need the jobs right here in the city I'm glad to have you as a neighbor "

VINYL CHLORIDE



Vinyl chloride is an extreme- ly flammable chemical that is easily ignited by heat, sparks or flames

Its vapors can travel to a source of ignition and flash back, and a container of vinyl chloride can explode violently in heat or fire Vapors also can explode

Vinyl chloride may be poi- sonous if inhaled, and contact with skin may cause burns to both skin and eyes Vapors can cause dizziness or suffo- cation, and contact with vinyl chloride in its liquid form can cause frostbite Vinyl chloride fires can produce irritating or poisonous gases

Because of its explosive na- ture, vinyl chloride is usually transported under pressure and shipped in a refrigerated or cooled state

It's used to make a number of plastic products, including garden hoses, phonograph re- cords and rain gear

Source: Leon Shaffer, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency di- rector of plans and operations divi- sion